

## Air Monitoring Awards of Excellence

Congratulations to Lake County AQMD, Monterey Bay Unified APCD, Bay Area AQMD, and Santa Barbara County APCD for being recognized as “Top Performers” in air monitoring.

When establishing new regulations, determining attainment/nonattainment designations, or developing specific policy, ambient air monitoring data can play a key role. Using the data with confidence begins with a strong commitment to quality control. Air quality data must meet specific data quality objectives (i.e., precision, accuracy, and completeness) to be used in the regulatory arena. Annually, the Quality Assurance Section in MLD evaluates the performance of monitoring sites, and the entity as a whole, for their ability to meet these data quality objectives. QA assesses the data in each category and provides feedback to the respective parties.



During the May, 2005, CAPCOA meeting, MLD's Quality Management Branch managers presented the first *Air Monitoring Awards of Excellence* to air monitoring entities in California that demonstrated a high degree of proficiency over a recent three year period. Four entities, one in each size category (based on the number of sites they operated) were singled out as the “Top Performers” and received awards for their outstanding efforts to meet stringent data quality objectives. Lake County (small), Monterey Bay Unified APCD (medium), San Francisco Bay Area AQMD (large), and Santa Barbara County APCD (large) demonstrated the highest levels of operational excellence in their air monitoring program categories. The highest overall honor was awarded to Monterey Bay Unified APCD, as the Top Performer, Statewide.

Other monitoring groups that were recognized for their continued ability to exceed the ARB's ambient air monitoring requirements for precision, accuracy and data completeness were:

Butte County AQMD  
California Air Resources Board - Monitoring and Laboratory Division  
Kern County APCD  
Mendocino County AQMD

Mojave Desert AQMD  
National Park Service  
Northern Sonoma County APCD  
San Diego County APCD  
San Joaquin Valley APCD  
San Luis Obispo County APCD  
Shasta County AQMD  
South Coast AQMD  
Ventura County APCD